



Speech by

Hon. TOM BARTON

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Hansard 11 June 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Department of Corrective Services

Hon. T. A. BARTON (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services) (9.48 a.m.), by leave: Yesterday, the member for Toowoomba South made a private member's statement about alleged increases in senior executive ranks of the new Department of Corrective Services. It is obvious that the member has not read yesterday's Courier-Mail. On page 2, there was this story with this headline, "Prison boss slashes pay for senior executives". Anyone with a rudimentary understanding of English would realise that this story did not give the impression of a blow-out in bureaucratic budgets. In fact, it was entirely the opposite.

For the member's information, the number of senior bureaucrats in the new department has not increased. In fact, after the amalgamation of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and the Government owned corporation, Queensland Corrections, or Q Corr, the number of senior executives has dropped from 23 to 22. The member also made note of the size of the internal business unit which replaced Q Corr. He said there were 11 senior executives in the new unit compared with three in the old Q Corr. This is incorrect. In the new unit, there are six senior level positions, down from 10 senior positions in the old Q Corr. Overall, with the reduction in the size and remuneration of senior levels from the old structures compared with the new department, there will be a saving of \$171,944 per annum in salaries. That is a saving of almost \$172,000 in taxpayers' funds—a saving all members of Parliament would applaud.

At the same time that the number of senior executives has dropped, the number of permanent prison officers has grown by 13% in the past six months from 1,131 to 1,283. If one includes part-time and casual custodial officers in this figure, there has been an increase of 23.9% over the same period from 1,339 to 1,659. Rather than increasing bureaucracies and reducing workers in corrections, as the member for Toowoomba South asserted yesterday, the opposite has happened. It is part of the Beattie Government's push to increase jobs in Queensland and it is about time that the member for Toowoomba South got his facts right.
